



E-NEWS

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December 8th, 2023

From The Executive Director

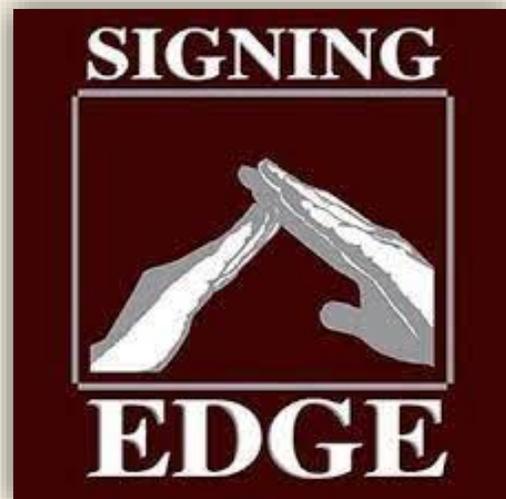


It is RENEWAL TIME here at the office! We get so much mail; it looks like we are Santa's mailbox with all those wish lists letters. Thanks to the interpreters for keeping their wish lists simple; all they ask for is their renewal cards! Shanda Miller and other staff have been working hard to get these processed and get cards out the door.

As we complete this overall process, we are always looking for ways to improve. Many other operations have gone to electronic filing and payment. This MIGHT be something we take a look at soon. We are always open to ideas, so let us know if you have an idea or have seen something you think would well with renewal.

Shanda Miller and Jo Martin have been working on the Interpreter Conference information. MCDHH and KCDHH are partnering to bring you a strong line-up for presenters for the upcoming Spring conference. If you have a chance, check it out on our website under the conference tab.

MCDHH is also partnering with Signing Edge, Inc. out of St. Louis for a Deaf Mentor workshop. We would like to build and foster opportunities for members of the Deaf community to work with interpreters who want a hands-on approach to skill development. This training will run concurrent with the interpreter workshop and even have a training opportunity for CEUs if there are interpreters who want to get involved and see what this is about on April 6th. If interested, contact Signing Edge at info@signingedge.com.





DESE just held the first LEAD-K ad hoc committee meeting this week. Individuals from across the state came together to get introduced, oriented, and talk about what kinds of programs and assessment other states have complied or used. Parents, teachers, administrators, and program directors are all working together. HB447,

LEAD-K, forms a committee that will review programs and assessments as well as information provided to the families who have deaf and hard of hearing children. The committee will make recommendations for DESE in establishing an assessment program for these children to monitor their language development so that these children enter the school system as ready as possible come their first day of kindergarten. We thank all the individuals who are serving on the committee!

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

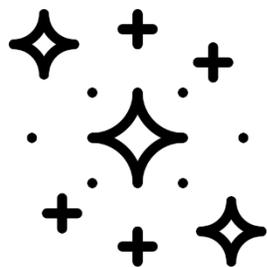
JANUARY 18TH, 2024

10AM-2PM

**MISSOURI RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY
THOMAS JEFFERSON ROOM
214 ADAMS ST
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101**

MCDHH COMMISSION MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:



APRIL 4TH OR 11TH KCMO 10-2 PM

JULY 18TH JCMO 10-2PM

OCTOBER 10th JCMO 10-2PM

Amusing Trivia

Spring Awakening on Broadway

Deaf West Theatre, 2015



In a groundbreaking fusion of 19th-century German drama and 21st-century inclusivity, Deaf West Theatre reimagined Spring Awakening in 2015. Directed by Michael Arden, this innovative production blended the beauty of American Sign Language and English, weaving a tale where deaf and hearing actors coexisted harmoniously on stage.

The performance not only revived the original plot but also skillfully incorporated aspects of oralism in deaf education, adding layers of depth to the narrative. Each deaf actor used sign language, accompanied by their speaking actors, like a

shadow or a subconscious.

This trailblazing show not only achieved artistic success but paved the way for a more inclusive Broadway experience. Spring Awakening became a beacon of accessibility, marking a historic moment as the first Broadway production to offer interpretation for deaf-blind theatergoers. The cast featured Ali Stoker, the first Broadway performer in a wheelchair, further expanding the boundaries of representation.

Nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical, the production showcased a stellar cast, including Oscar winner Marlee Matlin, whose presence as the Fanny Gabor added a touch of cinematic prestige. Miles Barbee, Sandra Frank, Joshua Castille, and other talented individuals contributed to the success of this transformative theatrical experience.

In essence, Spring Awakening transcended traditional norms, enlightening audiences with its unique blend of languages, diverse casting choices, and a profound commitment to making Broadway a stage for everyone.



“To me, the play speaks to those who are denied a voice, to those who don’t fit into the norm, to those who are questioning and experiencing the pains of growing up.”

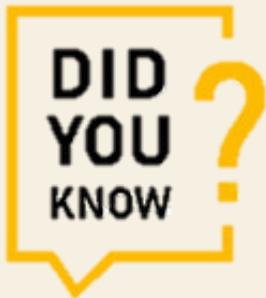
- Michael Arden

Mainstream News



The National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a Safety Campaign for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. The link listed below will provide basic, general information regarding various weather topics and weather radio information. Additional education, awareness and outreach events are being considered by NOAA. If you are interested in more information, and/or think that your community should hold an educational class, please contact Amy Sue Guinn; Staff Interpreter at amysue.guinn@mcdhh.mo.gov and this information will be forwarded to the NOAA for consideration.
<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/dhh-safety>

Mental Health Services for the Deaf



There are mental services available for the D/HOH community in both St. Louis and Kansas City!

As we move into the winter season with shorter days, longer nights, and many holidays, it is important to talk about Seasonal Depression. Many people go through times when they feel unusually sad or just different, for some, these feelings happen when the seasons change and have the "winter blues" when the daylight gets shorter in the fall/winter and start to feel better after daylight savings in the spring when the sun is out for longer.

Sometimes these mood changes can be more serious and can affect how a person feels, thinks, and even behaves. If you have noticed significant changes in your mood, thoughts, or behaviors during the fall/winter time, you may be struggling with Seasonal Affect Disorder or Seasonal Depression. Symptoms can include, among other things: Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" mood, feeling hopeless, guilt, or unusually irritable. Oversleeping, over eating, and avoiding social situations can all be signs as well.

The holidays can also bring about struggles with loneliness, additional stress and anxiety, and the 'Holiday Blues'. The good news is, treatment is available. Treatments for the "holiday blues" and for season depression can include talk therapy and medication services.

For anyone needing assistance on the East side of the state of Missouri, BJC Behavioral Health can help with therapy, medication, case management support. Please contact Laura Shapiro by cell phone: 314-210-4301 or email: laura.shapiro@bjc.org

Kansas City also offers mental health services for anyone in the Western half of the state of Missouri. Please contact Elijah Buchholz by cell phone: 913-709-5540 or email: ebuchholz@rediscovermh.org

Both programs offer services and therapy by sign fluent therapist and staff who can directly provide mental health support to those in need!

MCDHH's Upcoming Occasions



Defying Gravity:
Dive into the Details of the 2024 KC Interpreters Conference—
Register Now for Exclusive Access!
April 4-6, 2024

- **Registration:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/registration/>
- **Forms:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/forms-2/>
- **Schedule:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/schedule/>
- **Payment:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/2024payment/>
- **Presenters' Bios:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/presenters-bio/>
- **Workshops Descriptions:**
 - <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/workshop-descriptions/>

General Upcoming Affairs



The Whole Person
People with Disabilities Leading Independent Lives

**Join us for the
Deaf Peer Support Group**

**Tuesday
December 12, 2023
1-3pm**

The Whole Person
Community Room
3710 Main, KCMO 64111

Fun and fellowship
with other deaf peers!

**For more information, contact:
Clark Corogenes**
ccorogenes@thewholeperson.org
or 816-527-8334 (VP)

**Sponsored by:
Missouri Commission for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing**




**CERTIFIED DEAF
MENTOR
TRAINING**

April 6, 2024
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: TBA
Kansas City, Missouri

CONTACT US

636-692-4630 www.signingedge.com



**We work with the hearing impaired
Do you have Medicare Part A and B?**

Would you like these benefits?

- *Comprehensive Dental/Dentures
- *Eyeglasses/Hearing aids
- *Healthy Foods

**Call or Text
573.253.9502**

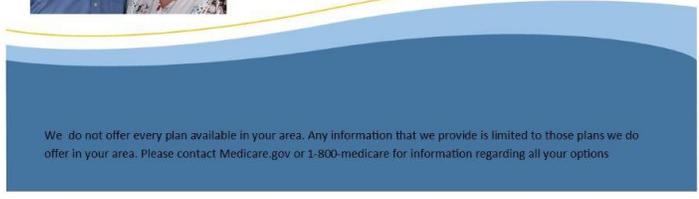
Remember: No cost to you to see if you qualify!

It only takes a couple of minutes to see if you may qualify for these and other benefits that you may not be receiving now.

- Remember: No cost to you to see if you qualify!



Call Frank or Kim Hanna 573.253.9502
Licensed Independent Medicare Insurance Brokers



We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information that we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-medicare for information regarding all your options

General Upcoming Affairs

A poster for the MSDPO 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar. The background is a dark wood texture with various holiday-themed items like a gold star, a red gift box with a white ribbon, a red gift box with a gold ribbon, dried orange slices, and pine branches. The text is white and centered.

**MSDPO
2ND ANNUAL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

**COME AND HAVE A
HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY TIME
BY ENJOYING THE HOLIDAY CHEER
IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT!**

**DECEMBER 9TH, 2023
NOON-5PM
MSD
HARRISON GYM
505 EAST 5TH ST
FULTON, MO 65251**

**• CRAFTERS • FOOD
• VENDORS • MUSIC
• RAFFLES • & MORE**

**-GOOD NEWS-
SIGNING SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS IS
ABLE TO TRAVEL IN AND SPEND SOME
HOLIDAY TIME WITH EVERYONE THAT
ATTENDS!**

A poster for a Christmas event titled "Christmas Back to the Beginning". The background is a green Christmas tree with yellow lights and white snowflakes. The text is white and blue.

**For anyone interested
in the Christmas story
and songs in ASL**

Christmas Back to the Beginning

**Join The Crossing's Deaf Worship Leaders &
HOWL's Torri Ryder & Ghelsea Hull to
prepare for this holiday season!**

**The Crossing Church
114 N Eatherton Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63005**

**Saturday, December 9th 2023
12:00-4:00pm**

*This is a FREE event!
.35 CEU's are available*

You may know the story, but how about the biblical concepts and nuances of the birth of Jesus that are not typically discussed? Delve into a deep look and understanding of God's redemptive love story to His creation. Come explore religious vocabulary, grammar, and pragmatics. Together, we will practice practical tips and tricks to boost your confidence in your interpretation.

The Crossing's Deaf worship leaders will be sharing their favorite Christmas worship songs in ASL. You won't want to miss this one!

MCDHH is an Approved RID CMP Sponsor for Continuing Education Activities. This Professional Studies program is offered for .35 CEUs at the Knowledge Level Content.

Contact handsofworshipandlight@gmail.com for reasonable accommodations and non-discrimination policy. We promote an environment of mutual respect, free from bias.



List of Links Resources

Event Dates:

MSDPO 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar

December 9th, Saturday

Noon-5PM

MSD Harrison Gym

505 East 5th ST

Fulton, MO 65251

Christmas: Back to the Beginning

December 9th, 2023 Saturday

12-4pm

The Crossing Church

114 N Eatherton Rd

Chesterfield, MO 63005

**** .35 CUEs available****

The Whole Person Deaf Peer Support Group

December 12, 2023 Tuesday

1-3PM

Community Room

3710 Main, KCMO 64111

Certified Deaf Mentor Training

Signing Edge

April 6, 2024

8 AM-3PM

Location: TBA KCMO

P: 636-692-4630

www.signingedge.com

Resources:

We Work with the Hearing Impaired

Do you have Medicare Part A and B?

Would you like these benefits?

Comprehensive Dental/Dentures

Eyeglasses/Hearing aids

Healthy Foods

It only takes a couple of minutes to see if you may qualify for these and other benefits that you may not be receiving now

*Remember no cost to you to see if you qualify!

Call Frank or Kim Hanna at 573.253.9502

License Independent Medicare Insurance Brokers



Want to post job positions & flyers in our newsletter?

Please e-mail

Johanna.martin@mcdhh.mo.gov with

image/video descriptions and scripts

(if applicable)



Want MCDHH to share your posts on Facebook?

- Make your posts sharable
- Direct message us on FB
- We will share!